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MONTANA

1986-1988 Fishing Regulations

PLEASE RETURN

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

VALID MARCH 1, 1986 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 1988

By order of the Montana Fish and Game Commission, the following dates and regulations for the 1986-88 fishing season are adopted.

Montana Fish and Game Commission
James W. Flynn, Secretary
November 20, 1985

To be in full force and effect through February 28, 1988. All regulations are subject to change by the commission.

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How To Use This Summary

The key to successful, legal fishing is found in the alphabetical listing of fishing waters for each of the three fishing districts. Every exception to the standard regulations is found in these lists.

To determine what regulations apply to a specific water, follow these steps:

- Read the Standard Statewide Fishing Regulations. This section defines many regulations and summarizes general information and restrictions that apply statewide.
- Use the maps to determine what Fishing District the water is in.
- Follow the District instructions. These regulations include season information and daily bag and possession limits.
- Check the alphabetical listing of waters for that district.
    a. If the water appears in the listing and there are more liberal or restrictive regulations listed, those regulations and all other Standard/District Regulations will apply.
    b. If the water does not appear in the listing, then the Standard/District Regulations will apply.

License Requirements

A fishing license is a permit for lawful holder thereof to fish for and possess any fish within the state as authorized by fishing regulations. This includes commercial whitefishing in which case the license must be validated by an authorized Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Department employee. There is no charge for this validation.

Residents

Each resident 15 years and older must have a resident fishing license in order to fish. Residents 12 through 14 years of age and residents 62 and older must have a conservation license to fish. Residents under the age of 12 need no license to fish but must observe limits and all other fishing regulations.

Free fishing permits are available from heads of respective institutions for patients at veterans' administration hospitals and for residents of state institutions other than the state penitentiary.

Residents who are certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by rules of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks may purchase a "Disabled Persons Conservation License" in order to fish.

Nonresidents

All nonresidents 15 years and older must have a fishing license to fish. No nonresident under the age of 15 years may fish in Montana without having obtained a fishing license unless the nonresident under the age of 15 years is in the company of an adult in possession of a valid Montana fishing license. The limit of fish for the nonresident and the accompanying adult combined may not exceed the limit for one adult.

A nonresident of any age may purchase a nonresident fishing license and be entitled to take a legal limit of fish.

Remember

ASK FIRST!!

to Hunt and Fish on Private Land

. . . a reminder from the Montana Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Fishing Licenses

License Fees Are Nonrefundable

Resident Licenses

In order to apply for a Montana resident hunting or fishing license, one must be a legal resident of Montana for a period of six months immediately prior to making application.

Except for holders of Resident Sportsman Licenses, conservation licenses are prerequisite to purchase of fishing licenses.

- **Resident Conservation License** . . . . . **$ 2.00**
  Residents 12 through 14 years of age and residents 62 or older need only a conservation license to fish and hunt upland game birds other than turkeys.
- **Resident Disabled Persons Conservation License** . **$ 2.00**
  Residents who are certified as permanently and substantially disabled, as designated by rules of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, may apply for an annual "disabled persons conservation license" which authorizes fishing and hunting of upland game birds other than turkeys.
- **Resident Fishing License** . . . . . **$ 9.00**
- **Resident Sportsman's License** **$36.00**
  (Includes Conservation License, 1 deer, 1 elk, 1 black bear, game birds and fishing)
- **Paddlefish Tags** . . . . . Two for **$ 3.00**
  (Needed for Yellowstone River) Limit of two.

Nonresident Licenses

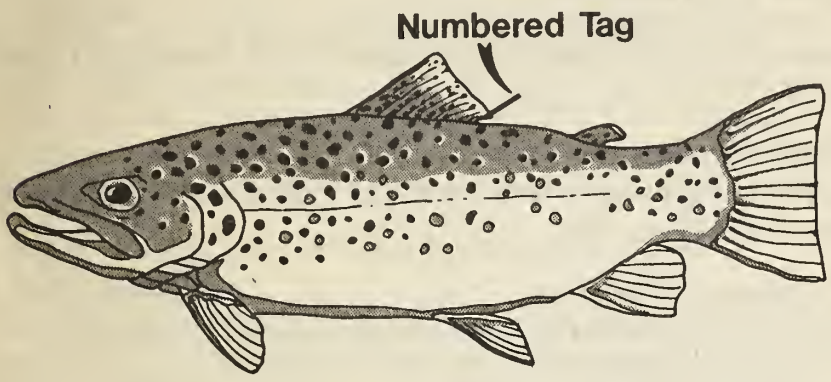
A Conservation License is required before fishing licenses may be purchased. You may apply for other licenses at the same time you apply for a conservation license.

- **Nonresident Conservation License** . . . . . **$ 2.00**
- **Nonresident Season Fishing License** . . . . . **$ 35.00**
- **Nonresident Temporary Fishing License** . . . . . **$ 8.00**
  (2 day)
- **Nonresident Paddlefish Tag** . . . . . Two for **$10.00**
  (Needed for Yellowstone River) Limit of two.
- **Nonresident Big Game, Fish and Bird License** **$350.00**
  (Available from Helena, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks office only) Includes an elk tag, deer "A" tag, black bear tag, authorizes hunting of game birds and fishing. Quota of 17,000.

Numbered Tag

If you catch a tagged fish, please advise the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks of the:

- Tag number and color
- Date fish was caught
- Species of fish
- Length and Weight (close as possible)
- Location of Catch (river - lake and specific area in miles from or to the nearest landmark)
- Name and address of fisherman.



Standard Statewide Fishing Regulations

Daily and Possession Limits

When weighing and measuring fish to determine limits, fish may have entrails removed but must have their heads and tails attached to their bodies. Heads and tails must remain attached when fishing waters with size limits.

Daily limit shall mean the numbers or pounds of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. No person shall take or possess more than the daily limit of fish unless otherwise specified under district regulations.

Possession limit shall mean the number or pounds of fish which may be in one person's possession anytime in any form - fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved.

Refer to district regulations for respective daily and possession limits.

A person fishing on a water may possess only a limit allowed for that water.

Seasons

All dates given are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed throughout the remainder of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise specified.

Lures and Bait

Artificial lures shall include any lure (including flies) that is man made in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. Artificial lures do not include fish eggs or other chemically treated or processed natural baits or any natural or man made food, or any man made lures that have been treated with a natural or artificial fish attractant or feeding stimulant.

Sculpins may be used live for bait statewide, except in waters limited to artificial lures and in the Madison River between McAtee Bridge and Ennis Lake. Otherwise live fish may not be used for bait except as provided under district regulations.

Carp or goldfish may not be used in any form as fish bait. Other fish may be used dead as bait if they have their heads and entrails removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in waters limited to artificial lures only.

Persons fishing in waters closed to the use of live fish for bait may not have live bait fish in their immediate possession.

Checking Stations

Fishermen and hunters are required to stop at checking stations on their routes of travel to and from fishing and hunting areas.

Fishing Hours

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons except on Holter Lake.

Ice Fishing Shelters

Special regulations on ice fishing shelters apply in:

- Bearpaw Lake
- Beaver Creek Reservoir
- Browns Lake (near Ovando)
- Deadmans Basin Reservoir
- Echo Lake (near Anaconda)
- Georgetown Lake
- Hauser Lake
- Helena Valley Reservoir
- Lake Frances
- Lake Helena

See Ice Fishing Shelter Regulations available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

Game Fish

All species of the family Salmonidae (chars, trout, salmon, grayling and whitefish); all species of the genus Stizostedion (sandpike or sauger and walleye pike or yellow pike-perch); all species of the genus Esox (northern pike, pickerel and muskellunge); all species of the genus Micropterus (bass); all species of the genus Polyodon (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); all species of the genus Lota (burbot or ling); and the species Ictalurus punctatus (channel catfish).

Means of Taking

Only a single line with hook or hooks, with or without a pole, may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in district regulations. The pole or line must be in immediate control.

These provisions also apply to commercial whitefish fishing as provided under district regulations.

Setlines may be used as provided under district regulations. Setlines are lines that may be attended or unattended. They may include poles and tipups.

Snagging of fish is unlawful at all times except paddlefish, kokanee salmon and nongame fish as provided under district regulations. Where snagging is allowed, any number of hooks may be used.

A screen or a net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus) for bait. Otherwise, use or possession of minnow seines, snares, or fish traps is unlawful except as provided under district regulations.

Closed Waters

All waters operated by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds shall be closed to fishing at all times. Water in which the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is operating fish traps and other special structures shall be closed to fishing as posted. Certain water supply lakes and streams and hazardous areas are closed as posted.

Children's Fishing Waters

Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are closed to fishing during the entire year to persons thirteen (13) years and older.

Beaver Ponds, Irrigation Canals and Ditches

Impoundments formed by beaver dams on streams are governed by the same regulations as govern the streams. Man made irrigation canals and ditches are open year around unless shown otherwise under district regulations.

National Parks, Indian Reservations and Wildlife Refuges

Certain waters on National Parks, Indian Reservations and National Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the park, reservation or refuge involved.

Use of Boats

The use of boats is prohibited or restricted on many waters. See Boating Regulations available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Size of Hole for Ice Fishing

The maximum size hole that may be cut for ice fishing is 144 square inches. This does not apply to waters open to fishing through the ice with spear or gig.

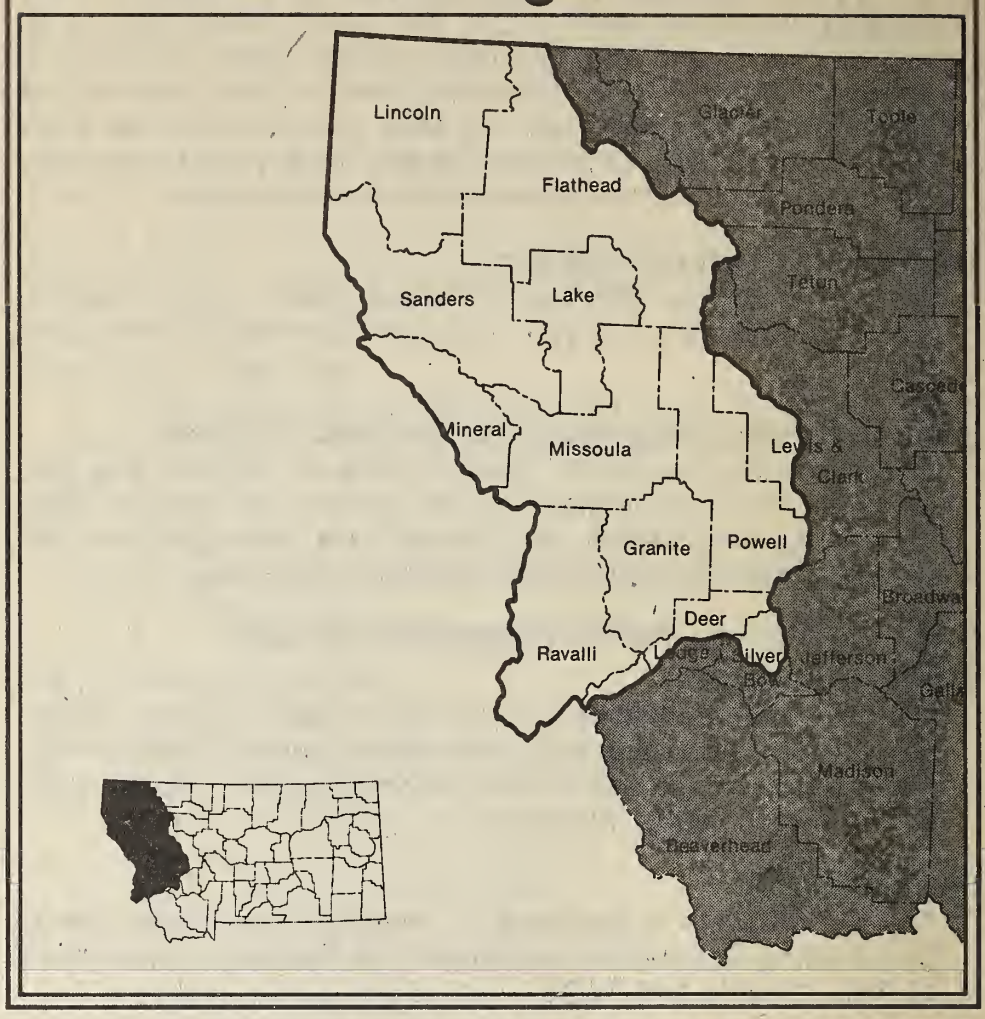
It Is Unlawful

- To transport or introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any waters;
- To refuse to show one's license upon demand;
- To loan or transfer your fishing or hunting license or tags to any person;
- To sell game fish except as prescribed by Montana Fish and Game Commission regulations;
- To leave or dump any dead animal; fish; garbage or litter in or on any state or private property where public recreation is permitted;
- To use any carbide, lime, giant powder, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison or to have any of the same in one's possession within one hundred (100) feet of any streams where fish are found, for the purpose of stunning or killing fish;
- To hire or retain an unlicensed outfitter or guide;
- To waste any part of game fish suitable for food.

It is unlawful to operate upon Montana waters a boat which:

- Is not properly licensed and numbered with registration card carried in boat, if motorized (gas or electric).
- Is not carrying equipment required by the Montana Water Safety Law (copies available from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.)
- Does not have one serviceable, Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each passenger plus one type IV PFD in boats over 16 feet. Persons under 12 years old must wear PFD's when boat is in motion and is less than 26 feet long.

Western Fishing District



WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT INCLUDES ALL WATERS IN MONTANA WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE.

Standard Fishing and Possession Limits

Each fisherman may take all of the following limits. However, a person may possess only the limit allowed for the water on which he is fishing.

LIMIT:

A

SPECIES: Brown trout
Cutthroat trout
Rainbow trout
Golden trout
Lake trout
Grayling
Bull trout

DAILY BAG LIMIT: Streams: 5 (1 over 14-inches), Lakes: 10 pounds and 1 fish, not to exceed 10 fish.
POSSESSION LIMIT: Streams: 5 (1 over 14-inches), Lakes: 10 pounds and 1 fish, not to exceed 10 fish.

In the Flathead Drainage only one bull trout may be included in either of the above limits.

B

SPECIES: Brook trout
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 10 pounds not to exceed 20 fish
POSSESSION LIMIT: 20 fish

C

SPECIES: Bass
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 5
POSSESSION LIMIT: 5

D **SPECIES:** Northern Pike
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 15
POSSESSION LIMIT: 15

E **SPECIES:** Salmon - angling - All lakes & streams where fishing is permitted.
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 20
POSSESSION LIMIT: 40

F **SPECIES:** Whitefish
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 100 including fish taken for sale
POSSESSION LIMIT: 100

G **SPECIES:** Burbot (Ling)
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 5
POSSESSION LIMIT: 5

It is unlawful to take or possess any sturgeon of the genus **Acipenser** (White Sturgeon).

Standard Fishing Seasons

Streams open third Saturday in May through November. Lakes open entire year. All streams (except those closed entire year and waters posted closed) have extended whitefish seasons; open December through March. All water open to angling are open to bow and arrow hunting and snagging of nongame fish.

Persons swimming or submerged may take nongame fish in most waters open to fishing. Snagging of salmon is allowed in waters open to fishing from September 15 through December except as noted under exceptions.

Wilderness Limits: All waters in the Blackfoot, South Fork Flathead, and Middle Fork Flathead River drainages within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas. Limit A:

- Lakes - 3 fish, no size limit
- Streams - rainbow and cutthroat, 3 fish none of which may exceed 12 inches
- One bull trout of any size may make up one of the 3 fish in either the lake or stream limit.

Exceptions to: Western Fishing District

Abbott Lake near Bigfork
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Anaconda Settling Pond System
Open May 25 through September for catch-and-release and artificial lures only.

Ashley Creek below Smith Lake
Open entire year.

Ashley Creek from Thompson Falls public water supply intake to its source
Closed entire year.

Ashley Lake
Limit E: 35 daily and 70 in possession.

Ashley Lake Tributaries
Closed entire year.

Basin Creek from lower Butte water supply reservoir dam to source, including all reservoirs and tributaries
Closed entire year.

Big Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and all tributaries
Closed entire year.

Bitterroot River
Open third Saturday in May through March for catching of *whitefish* for commercial sale.

- Downstream from Florence Bridge
  Open entire year.
- Upstream from Florence Bridge
  Open December 1 to third Saturday in May for: *whitefish* with bait, *trout* with artificial lures and catch-and-release only.
- From Stevensville Bridge to Florence Bridge one mile downstream from Darby Bridge to Como Bridge
  Open third Saturday in May through November for artificial lures only. Limit A: 5 fish per day under 12 inches or 4 fish under 12 inches and 1 over 20 inches.

Bitterroot Valley between U.S. 93 and the East side Highway between Hamilton and Florence (Ditches, canals and sloughs)
Open December 1 to third Saturday in May for: *whitefish* with bait, *trout* with artificial lures and catch-and-release only.

Blackfoot River
Open third Saturday in May through March for catching of *whitefish* for commercial sale.
- Downstream from Scotty Brown Bridge
  Open entire year.

Blanchard Lake near Whitefish
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears. Open to spearing or gigging of *northern pike* and nongame fish through the ice only. Open to three attended lines through the ice only.

Brenneman Slough
Closed entire year to snagging of *salmon*. Limit E: 10 daily and 20 in possession.

Carpenter Lake (Therriault Lake)
Limit C: 20 .

Cedar Creek impoundment (Columbia Falls water supply)
Closed entire year.

Clark Fork River
- Including Mainstream impoundments
  Open third Saturday in May through March for catching of *whitefish* for commercial sale..
- From Milltown Dam to Idaho border
  Open entire year. Limit A: 5 fish only 1 of which may exceed 16 inches.
- Downstream from Anaconda Company settling pond system spillway to Milltown Dam
  Open entire year.
- From Anaconda Company settling pond system spillway to Perkins Lane Bridge
  Open entire year for artificial lures only. Limit A: 5 fish per day under 12 inches or 4 fish under 12 inches and 1 over 20 inches.

Clearwater Drainage
Limit E: 10 daily and 20 in possession. Open for snagging of *salmon* September 15 through December when 35 daily and 70 in possession shall be allowed.

Clearwater River downstream from Lake Inez fish barrier
Open entire year.

Coal Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and its tributaries
Closed entire year.

Crow Creek and tributaries upstream from intake of Ronan water supply to its source
Closed entire year.

Daly Creek (near Hamilton)
Closed entire year.

Donaldson Creek Drainage, tributary of Lake Mary Ronan
Closed entire year.

Echo Lake near Anaconda
Open third Saturday in May through March. Limits A and B: 5 (including *brook trout*).

Echo Lake near Bigfork
Closed to rubber or spring propelled spears. Open to spear and gig through ice for nongame fish and *northern pike*.

Elk Creek, tributary to Swan River
Closed entire year.

Flathead Lake
Open third Saturday in May through March for catching of *whitefish* for commercial sale. Limit A: 5 fish daily and in possession; only 1 *lake trout* can be larger than 28 inches and only 1 *bull trout* can be included in the catch. Closed entire year to snagging of *salmon*. Limit E: 10 daily and 20 in possession.

- Hatchery Bay of Flathead Lake at Somers
  Closed as posted from October 1 until spawn taking is complete.

Flathead River

- From junction of North Fork and South Fork to Clark Fork
  Open third Saturday in May through March for catching of *whitefish* for commercial sale.
- Above Kerr Dam
  No more than 1 *bull trout* may be included in the daily catch. Closed entire year to snagging of *salmon*.
- From Sportsmans Bridge (State Highway 82) to U.S. Highway 2 bridge at Columbia Falls
  Open December 1 through April. Catch-and-release only for *trout* with artificial lures.
- Downstream of Kerr Dam
  Open entire year.

Flathead Indian Reservation
Flathead River from Kerr Dam to Reservation Boundary
Catch-and-release only for *trout*.

Tribal Fishing Permit is necessary on Reservation waters.

Other waters may be closed seasonally, check at Tribal Headquarters for specific information.

Flower Creek and its artificial impoundments from Power Dam to its source, excluding natural lakes
Closed entire year.

Fred Burr Lake (Philipsburg Water supply)
Closed entire year.

Freeland Creek Drainage, tributary to Lake Mary Ronan
Closed entire year.

Georgetown Lake and Tributaries
Lake open third Saturday in May through March. Tributaries open third Saturday in May through November. Limits A and B: 5 (including *brook trout*). Limit E: No daily or possession limit on *salmon*.

Goat Creek (Swan River tributary)
Closed entire year.

Granite Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
Closed entire year.

Haskell Creek and tributaries from Whitefish public water intake to its source
Closed entire year.

Hell Roaring Creek, water supply for Polson, and its lakes from outlet of lower lake to its source
Closed entire year.

Herrig Creek, tributary to Little Bitterroot Lake
Closed entire year.

Horseshoe Lake near Ferndale
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Hot Springs Creek and its tributaries from Hot Springs public water supply intake to its source
Closed entire year.

Hungry Horse Reservoir
Limit A: 5 daily and in possession; only 1 *bull trout* may be included in the catch.

Kilbrennan Lake
Open third Saturday in May through September.

Kootenai River (also see Libby Dam)
Open entire year.
- From Libby Dam to Idaho Border
  Open third Saturday in May through March for catching of *whitefish* for commercial sale.

Lake Blaine near Kalispell
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Lake Mary Ronan
Open third Saturday in May through March 15. *Salmon* snagging allowed October 15 through November. Limit E: 10 daily and 20 in possession, except during snagging season when 20 daily and 40 in possession are allowed. Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Libby Dam
Fishing from boats or other floating craft is prohibited in Kootenai River from Libby Dam approximately 500 yards downstream to David Thompson bridge as posted.
- Structure as posted and the buoyed area immediately upstream from spillway
  Closed entire year.

Lion Creek, Tributary to Swan River
Closed entire year.

Lion Lake
Open to spearing or gigging of *northern pike* and nongame fish through the ice only. Three attended lines allowed through the ice only.

Little Bitterroot Lake
Limit E: 35 daily and 70 in possession.

Little Bitterroot River downstream from its tunnel
Open entire year.

Little Blackfoot River
Open December 1 to third Saturday in May for: *whitefish* with bait, *trout* with artificial lures and catch-and-release only.

Lodgepole Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
Closed entire year.

Long Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
Closed entire year.

Loon Lake near Ferndale
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Loon Lake Tributary to Pipe Creek, 15 miles NW of Libby
Closed October 1 through November 30.

Lower Stillwater Lake
Open to spearing or gigging of *northern pike* and nongame fish through the ice only. Open to use of three attended lines through the ice only.

Lower Thompson Lake
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Medicine Lake near Philipsburg
Open July 1 through April.

Medicine Lake Tributaries
Open July 1 through November.

Middle Fork Flathead Drainage (All streams)
No more than 1 *bull trout* may be included in the daily catch except in streams closed to fishing.

Middle Thompson Lake
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Morrison Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
Closed entire year.

Murphy Lake near Fortine
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

No Tellum Lake
Open April 1 through November. Limit A: 2 which must be over 14 inches.

North Fork Flathead Drainage (All streams)
No more than 1 *bull trout* may be included in the daily catch except in streams closed to fishing.

O'Brien Creek from Troy city water intake to a point 1/4 mile upstream as posted
Closed entire year.

Peterson Lake near Bigfork
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

Rattlesnake Creek
- Upstream from mouth of Beeskove Creek
  Open entire year. Catch-and-release with artificial lures only.
- Tributaries from Missoula water supply dam of Mountain Water Company to mouth of Beeskove Creek
  Closed entire year.

Rock Creek from its mouth to mouth of West Fork Rock Creek
Artificial lures only except fishermen 14 years and younger may use bait. Limit A: 3 fish per day under 12 inches or 2 fish under 12 inches and 1 over 20 inches.

Rogers Lake spawning inlet
Closed entire year.

Silver Creek upstream from Saltese water supply intake
Closed entire year.

South Fork Flathead Drainage (All streams)
No more than 1 *bull trout* may be included in the daily catch.

South Fork Flathead River
No more than 1 *bull trout* may be included in the daily catch.
- Downstream from Hungry Horse Dam to "Devils Elbow" as posted
  Closed entire year.
- From Meadow Creek bridge to Spotted Bear footbridge
  Artificial lures only. Limit A: *cutthroat*, catch-and-release only.

Squeezer Creek (Swan River tributary)
Closed entire year.

Stillwater River from mouth of Sunday Creek to lower Stillwater Lake
Open entire year.

Swan Lake
Limit E: 35 daily and 70 in possession.

Swan River
- Downstream from Bigfork Dam
  Closed entire year to snagging of *salmon*. Limit E: 10 daily and 20 in possession.
- From Swan Lake to Bigfork Dam
  Open December 1 to third Saturday in May for: *whitefish* with bait, *trout* with artificial lures and catch-and-release only.

Tally Lake
Limit E: 35 daily and 70 in possession.

Therriault Lake (Carpenter Lake)
Limit C: 20.

Thompson River from mouth of West Fork Thompson River to mouth of Deerhorn Creek
Open third Saturday in May through November for artificial lures, catch-and-release only for *trout*.

Trail Creek (Yakinikak) and its tributaries downstream from mouth of Thoma Creek
Closed entire year.

Upper Stillwater Lake
Open to spearing or gigging of *northern pike* and nongame fish through the ice only. Open to three attended lines through the ice only.

Upper Thompson Lake
Closed to use of rubber or spring propelled spears.

West Fork Rock Creek from the upstream boundary fence of the West Fork Youth Camp to its headwaters
Closed entire year.

Whale Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and its tributaries downstream from Whale Creek Falls
Closed entire year.

Whitefish Lake
Closed entire year to snagging of *salmon*. Limit E: 10 daily and 20 in possession.

Whitefish River from Whitefish Lake to Montana State highway 40 bridge
Open entire year.

Wildlife Management Ponds (E 1/2 of S7, T5N, R9W, Deer Lodge County)
Closed entire year.

Woods Lake
Open entire year for artificial lures only. Limit A: catch-and-release only.

Commercial Bait Fish Seining

Sculpins may be harvested for commercial purposes in accordance with ARM Section 12.7.201-12.7.206 from all waters with a four (4) foot screen or net as provided in the general fishing regulations. Any individual taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must possess a commercial bait fish seining license.

Live bait fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana for commercial or other purposes.

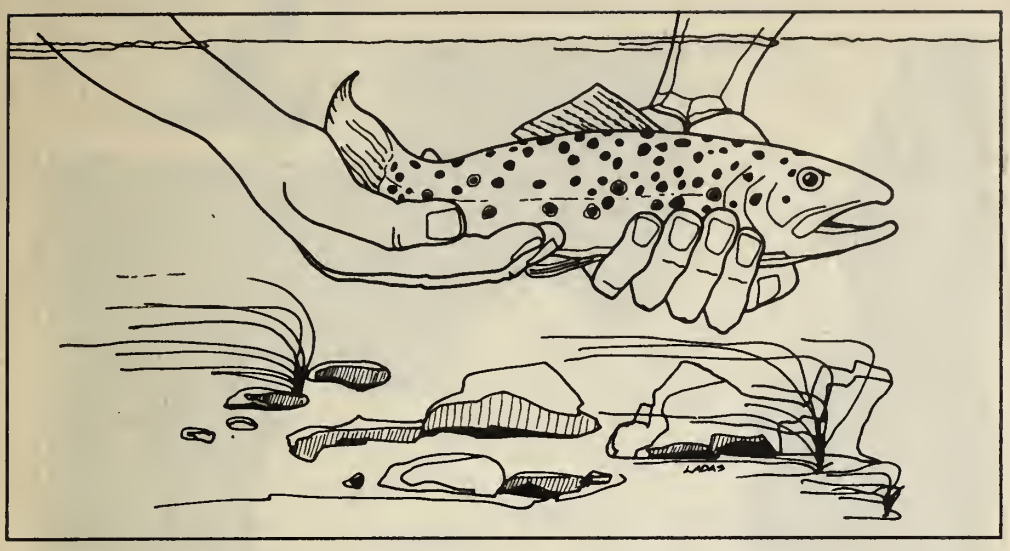
Not valid on Indian Reservation water; for information contact local tribal officials.

Nets (Use of)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.

The use of nets or traps for catching fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is prohibited. This does not prohibit the use of a landing net for landing hooked fish. A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

Releasing Fish



The following steps will insure that a released fish has the best chance for survival:

- Play fish as rapidly as possible — do not play to total exhaustion.
- Keep fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing hook.
- Remove hook gently — do not squeeze fish or put fingers in gills.
- If deeply hooked — cut line — do not pull hook out. Most fish survive with hooks left in them.
- Release fish only after its equilibrium is maintained. If necessary gently hold fish upright facing upstream and move fish slowly back and forth.
- Release fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

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Central Fishing District

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT INCLUDES ALL WATERS IN MONTANA LYING EAST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE, (INCLUDING THE BELLY AND ST. MARYS DRAINAGES) AND WATERS LYING WEST OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED BOUNDARY.

Interstate 15 from Montana-Canadian border south to Northwest Bypass Junction near Great Falls, east on said Bypass to Smelter Avenue, east on Smelter Avenue to 15th Street, south on said street to north bank of Missouri River, east along high water mark of Missouri River to Black Eagle Dam, across said dam and following high water mark along the south bank of the Missouri River, easterly to State Route 80 at Fort Benton; southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, easterly on State Route 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 191 northeasterly along U.S. Highway 191 to its junction with State Route 19, south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87, south on U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with U.S. Highway 12, west on U.S. Highway 12 to its junction with State Route 3, south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 94, northeasterly on Interstate 94 to its junction with Interstate 90, easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the Montana-Wyoming border.

Standard Fishing and Possession Limits

Each fisherman may take all of the following limits. However, a person may possess only the limit allowed for the water on which he is fishing.

LIMIT:

A

SPECIES: Brown trout
Cutthroat trout
Rainbow trout
Golden trout
Lake trout
Grayling

DAILY BAG LIMIT: Streams: 5 (1 over 18-inches), Lakes: 10 pounds and 1 fish, not to exceed 10 fish.
POSSESSION LIMIT: Streams: 5 (1 over 18-inches), Lakes: 10 pounds and 1 fish, not to exceed 10 fish.

B

SPECIES: Brook trout
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 10 pounds not to exceed 20 fish
POSSESSION LIMIT: 20 fish

C

SPECIES: Bass, Sauger, Walleye
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 5 in any combination
POSSESSION LIMIT: 5 in any combination

D

SPECIES: Northern Pike
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 5
POSSESSION LIMIT: 5

E

SPECIES: Salmon - angling
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 10
POSSESSION LIMIT: 10

SPECIES: Salmon - snagging
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 35
POSSESSION LIMIT: 70

F

SPECIES: Whitefish
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 100 including fish taken for sale
POSSESSION LIMIT: 100

There is no number limit on catfish, burbot (ling), sturgeon and nongame fish. The maximum weight sturgeon (Genus: **Scaphirhynchus**) which may be taken is 16 pounds.

Standard Fishing Seasons

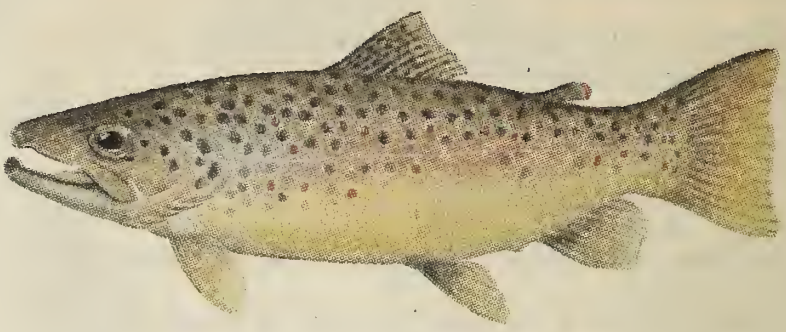
Streams open third Saturday in May through November. Lakes open entire year. Anglers may use up to 6 unattended setlines with up to 6 hooks per line in those waters open to setline fishing. Unattended setlines must be clearly marked with owner's name and address. All waters open to bow and arrow hunting, and snagging of nongame fish. Nongame fish and burbot may be taken with rubber or spring propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged in all waters open to fishing.

Forest Limits: All waters within the National Forest Administrative Boundary from U.S. Highway 2 near East Glacier to Highway 200 near Rogers Pass. Limit A:

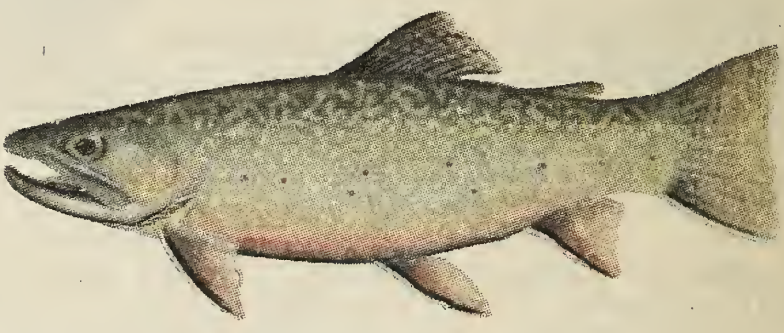
- Lakes - 3 fish, no size limit
- Streams - Rainbow and cutthroat, 3 fish none of which may exceed 12 inches. Grayling, catch-and-release only.

Fish Identification

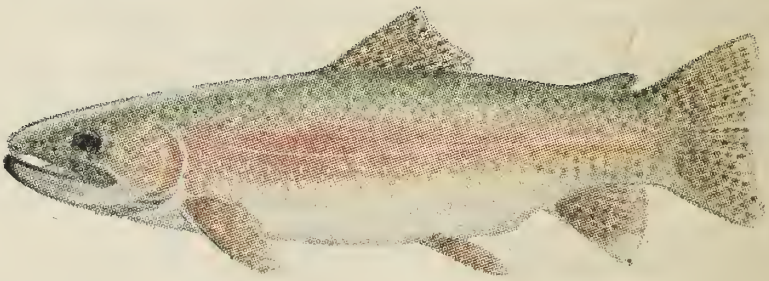
Brown Trout



Brook Trout



Rainbow Trout



West Slope Cutthroat

Lake Trout

These illustrations were painted by Glenn West for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Northern Pike

Walleye

Yellow Perch

Largemouth Bass

Smallmouth Bass

Exceptions To: Central Fishing District

Alder Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout.*

Alder Gulch Creek and dredge ponds mouth to Virginia City
Open entire year.

Armstrong Spring Creek
Open entire year. Artificial flies and lures only. Catch-and-release only.

Badger Creek Drainage near Heart Butte, within National Forest
Forest limits.

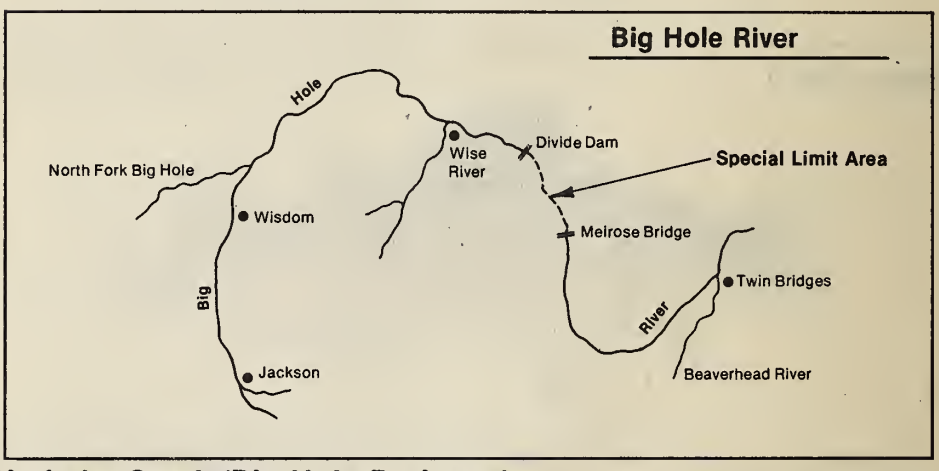
Beaverhead River below Pipeorgan Bridge
Open entire year.

Belt Creek below bridge at Riceville
Open entire year.

Big Hole River
Open entire year for *whitefish.*

Big Hole River above bridge at Wisdom
Open entire year for *brook trout.*

- Above Divide Dam and Melrose Bridge to mouth
  Only 1 *grayling* allowed which must be over 13 inches.
- Divide Dam to Melrose Bridge
  Limit A: 3 fish per day under 13 inches and 1 fish over 22 inches, 1 *grayling* per day over 13 inches. Artificial lures only.
- Tributaries above Divide Dam
  Open entire year for *brook trout.*



Big Lake Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout.*

Big Spring Creek - Lewistown
Open entire year.

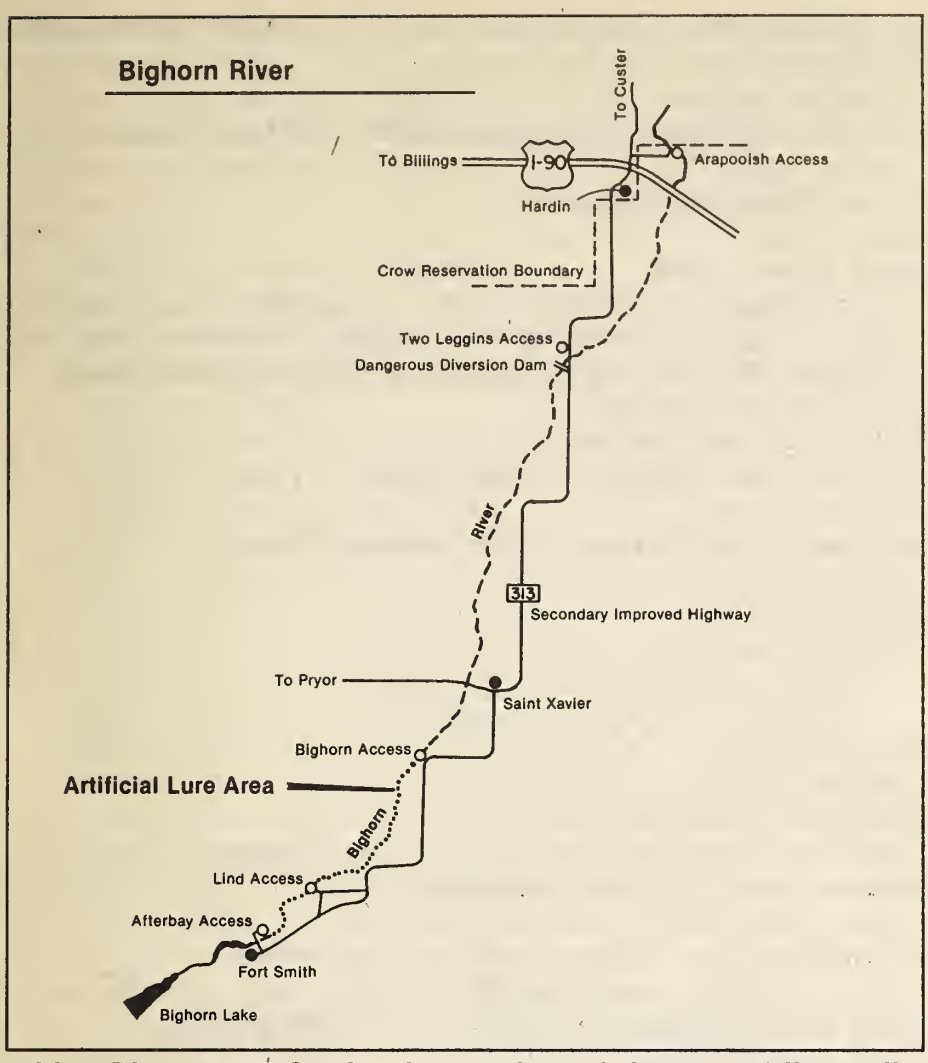
Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait. Limit C: 10 *walleye & sauger* in any combination and 5 *bass.*

Bighorn River

- Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area
  Open entire year. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait. Limit A: 5 fish only 1 of which may be over 18 inches and only 1 of which may be a *rainbow trout.*
- Cable 600 feet below Afterbay Dam to Bighorn Access Area
  Open entire year. Artificial lures only. Limit A: 5 fish only 1 of which may be over 18 inches and only 1 of which may be a *rainbow trout.*

Bluewater Creek
Open entire year.

Boulder River near Big Timber
Open entire year.



Boulder River near Cardwell, mouth to bridge 4 airline miles upstream in T2N R3W S24
Open third Saturday in May through September.

Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
Closed entire year.

Bull Creek - Jackson (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout*.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir
Setline fishing allowed through the ice only.

Clark Canyon Reservoir
Limit A: 5.

Clarks Fork Yellowstone River
Open entire year.
- Below bridge at Bridger
  Setline fishing allowed entire year. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Culver Pond (Widow's Pool) (Beaverhead County)
Open July 15 through September. Artificial lures only. Limit B: 4 fish under 12 inches and 1 fish over 18 inches.

Cut Bank Creek below Blackfeet Indian Reservation
Open entire year.

Darlington Ditch (Darlington Spring Creek) on Cobblestone Fishing Access Site (near Logan)
Catch-and-release for *trout* and *grayling*. Artificial lures only.

Dearborn River downstream from Highway 434 bridge
Open entire year.

Deep Creek Drainage near Choteau, within National Forest
Forest limits.

Deep Creek near Wise River (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout*.

East Fork Hyalite Creek
Open third Saturday in July through November.

East Fork La Marche Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout*.

East Gallatin River downstream from the mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
Open entire year.

Elk Creek Drainage near Augusta, within National Forest
Forest limits.

Elk Lake (Beaverhead County)
Limit A: 5.

Eyraud (Arod) Lakes
Open second Saturday in June through February including setline fishing. Spearing or gigging *northern pike* and nongame fish open through the ice only through February.

Fairground Pond, Helena
Children's fishing water.

Falls Creek near Augusta, within National Forest
Forest limits.

Ford Creek near Choteau, within National Forest
Forest limits.

Gallatin River
Open entire year.
- Yellowstone Park to East Gallatin River
  Closed to fishing from boats.

Gibson Reservoir
Forest Limits.

Goose Lake - Madison County
Open third Saturday in June through November.

Governor Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout.*

Harrison Reservoir, Willow Creek Arm as posted
Open third Saturday in May through February. Limit A: 5 .

Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted.
Closed entire year.

Hauser Lake
Setline fishing allowed through the ice only.

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir
Open for *salmon* snagging September 1 through December where the limit shall be 35 daily and 70 in possession. Open to setline fishing through the ice only.

Hidden Lake, Madison County
Open third Saturday in June through November.

Holter Reservoir
Open entire year 5 a.m. to midnight. Setline fishing through the ice except prohibited 12 midnight to 5 a.m. and from shore.

Howell Creek, Wisdom (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout.*

Indian Creek, Sheridan from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
Closed entire year.

Intake Reservoir, Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply
Closed entire year.

Jefferson River
Open entire year. Limit A: 5 *brown trout* with only 1 over 18 inches. Catch-and-release only for *rainbow trout.*

La Marche Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout.*

Lake Francis
- Around Conrad water supply outlet as posted
  Closed entire year.
- Except portion closed as posted
  Open entire year for setline fishing. Spearing or gigging *northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling)* and nongame fish open through the ice only.

Lake Helena
Open to setline fishing through the ice only.

Lightning Creek (Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness)
Open August 1 through November.

Little Bighorn River

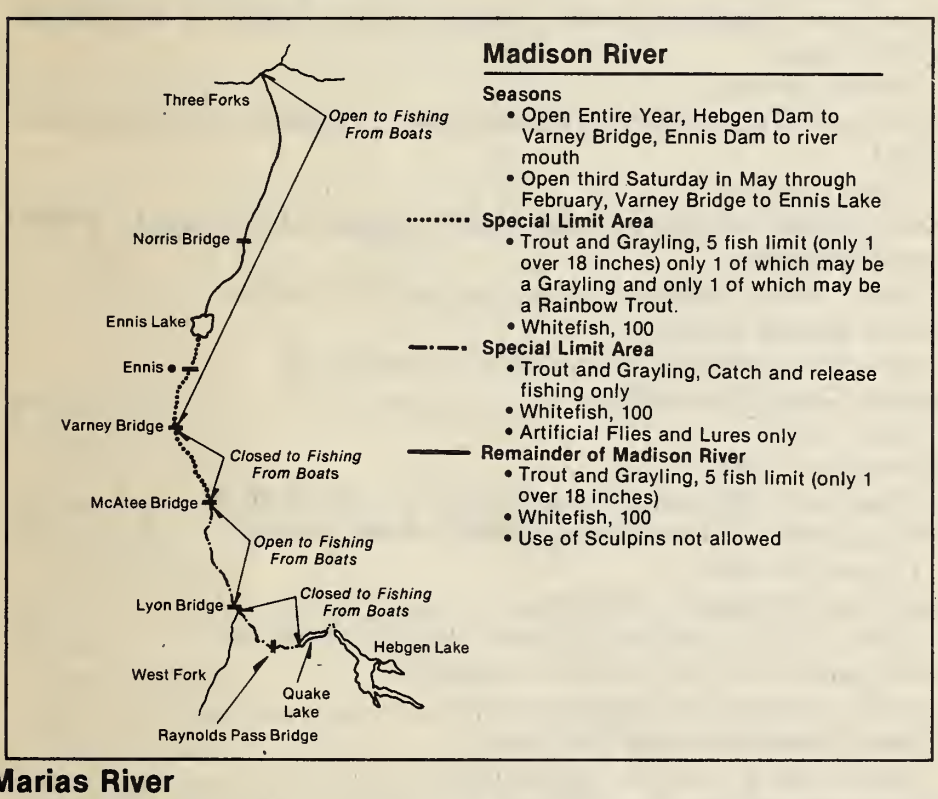
Open entire year including setline fishing. Limit A: 10. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Lyman Creek, Bozeman from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted

Closed entire year.

Madison River

- From Ennis Dam to the mouth
  Open entire year.
- Earthquake Lake outlet to McAtee Bridge
  Open entire year. Artificial lures only. Catch-and-release for *trout* and *grayling.*
- Earthquake Lake outlet to Lyon Bridge and McAtee Bridge to Varney Bridge
  Closed to fishing from boats.
- McAtee Bridge to Varney Bridge
  Open entire year. *Sculpins* not allowed for bait. Limit A: 5 fish per day only 1 of which may exceed 18 inches and only 1 of which may be a *rainbow trout* and only 1 of which may be a *grayling.*
- Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake
  Open third Saturday in May through February. *Sculpins* not allowed for bait. Limit A: 5 fish per day only 1 of which may exceed 18 inches and only 1 of which may be a *rainbow trout* and only 1 of which may be a *grayling.*
- Yellowstone Park to Earthquake Lake
  Only 1 *grayling* allowed.


Madison River
Seasons
• Open Entire Year, Hebgen Dam to Varney Bridge, Ennis Dam to river mouth
• Open third Saturday in May through February, Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake
Special Limit Area
• Trout and Grayling, 5 fish limit (only 1 over 18 inches) only 1 of which may be a Grayling and only 1 of which may be a Rainbow Trout.
• Whitefish, 100
Special Limit Area
• Trout and Grayling, Catch and release fishing only
• Whitefish, 100
• Artificial Flies and Lures only
Remainder of Madison River
• Trout and Grayling, 5 fish limit (only 1 over 18 inches)
• Whitefish, 100
• Use of Sculpins not allowed
Three Forks
Open to Fishing From Boats
Norris Bridge
Ennis Lake
Ennis
Varney Bridge
Closed to Fishing From Boats
McAtee Bridge
Open to Fishing From Boats
Lyon Bridge
Closed to Fishing From Boats
Hebgen Lake
West Fork
Quake Lake
Raynolds Pass Bridge

Marias River

Open entire year including setline fishing. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish,* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

McDonalds Pond (Beaverhead County)

Open July 15 through September. Artificial lures only. Limit A: 1 *rainbow trout* over 20 inches in length.

Middle Creek (Hyalite Creek), Bozeman from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted

Closed entire year.

Midvale Creek from intake of Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to park boundary

Closed entire year.

Mill Creek near Sheridan

Open entire year.

Miner Creek (Big Hole Drainage)

Open entire year for *brook trout.*

Missouri River

Closed entire year for fishing from Holter Dam, abutment and spillway structures below the dam.

- Just below Canyon Ferry Dam as posted.
  Closed entire year.
- Between bridges at Craig and Sheep Creek
  Open to spear fishing for *whitefish* with rubber or spring propelled spears by person swimming or submerged. Limit F: 5 daily.
- Holter Dam to Black Eagle Dam
  Open entire year for commercial *whitefish* fishing.
- Downstream from Three Forks
  Open entire year.

Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn including all streams and drainage canals

Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Musselshell River

Open entire year.

North Fork Big Hole River

Open entire year for *whitefish*. Open entire year for *brook trout*.

North Fork Birch Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest

Forest limits.

North Fork Dearborn Drainage near Augusta, within National Forest

Forest limits.

North Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage near Choteau, within National Forest

Forest limits.

North Fork Teton River Drainage near Choteau, within National Forest

Forest limits.

North Willow Creek, Harrison from Highway 287 bridge to Willow Creek Reservoir

Open third Saturday in June through November.

Nelson Spring Creek

Catch-and-release only. Artificial lures only.

Newlan Creek Reservoir

Limit A: 5.

Norwegian Creek

Open third Saturday in June through November.

O'Brien Creek above Neihart public water intake

Closed all year.

Otter Lake, Madison County

Open third Saturday in June through November.

Pattengail Creek (Big Hole Drainage)

Open entire year for *brook trout*.

Pintler Creek (Big Hole Drainage)

Open entire year for *brook trout*.

Pishkun Reservoir

Open entire year for setline fishing. *Salmon* snagging September 1 through December where the limit shall be 35 daily and 70 in possession. Spearing or gigging of *northern pike,* and nongame fish through the ice only.

Plimpton Creek (Big Hole Drainage)

Open entire year for *brook trout*.

Poindexter Slough

Open entire year. From December 1 to third Saturday in May: Artificial flies and lures only. Catch-and-release only.

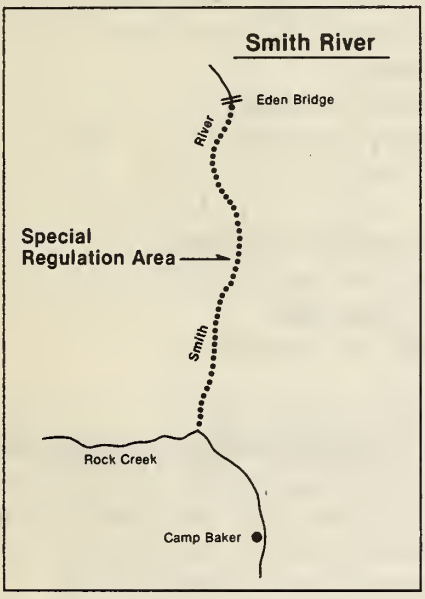
Priest Butte Lake

Open June 15 through September 15 and December 1 through February.

Rattlesnake Creek, Dillon from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted

Closed entire year.

Red Lodge Creek below Cooney Dam
Open entire year.
Red Rock River below Lima Reservoir
Open entire year for *whitefish.*
Rock Creek near Red Lodge
Open entire year.
Ruby River below Ruby Dam
Open entire year.
Silver Creek, Marysville
Catch-and-release fishing from Gold Sil Mine as posted to Green Meadow Drive.
Smith Creek Drainage near Augusta, within National Forest
Forest limits.
Smith River
- Below confluence of North and South Forks
  Open entire year.
- From confluence of Rock Creek to Eden (Huntsberger) Bridge
  Artificial lures for *trout* only. Limit A: 3 fish under 13 inches and 1 fish per day over 22 inches.



South Fork Birch Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
Forest limits.
South Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
Forest limits.
South Fork Teton River Drainage near Choteau, within National Forest
Forest limits.
South Fork Two Medicine Creek Drainage, within National Forest
Forest limits.
Sourdough Creek (See Bozeman Creek)
South Willow Creek, Harrison from Highway 287 bridge to Willow Creek Reservoir
Open third Saturday in June through November.
Split Rock Lake
Open entire year for setline fishing. Spearing or gigging for *northern pike,* and nongame fish through the ice only.
Spring Meadow Lake
Closed to motor propelled water craft. 1 *trout* or *bass*, no limit on other species.
Squaw Creek (Big Hole River Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout.*
Stillwater River
Open entire year.
Sun River below Forest Service Administrative boundary
Open entire year. Limit A: 5, only 1 *grayling* may exceed 13 inches.

Sun River Drainage above Forest Service Administrative Boundary
Forest limits.

Swamp Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout.*

Teton River downstream from Highway 89 bridge
Open entire year.

Toston Dam structure as posted
Closed entire year.

Wade Lake, Madison County
Open third Saturday in May through February.

Warm Springs Creek, Lewistown
Open entire year. Limit A: 10.

West Fork Hyalite Creek
Open third Saturday in July through November.

West Fork La Marche (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout.*

West Fork Rock Creek from Red Lodge water intake 1,000 feet upstream
Closed entire year.

Willow Creek and tributaries from White Sulphur Springs public water intake to source
Closed entire year.

Wise River (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout.*

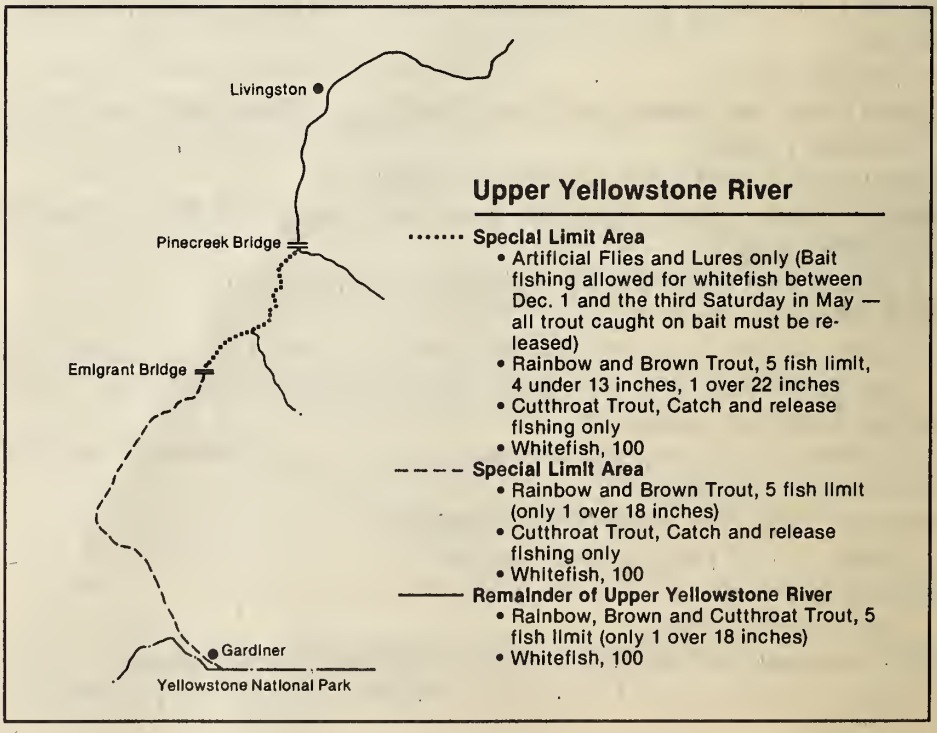
Wood Lake (Sun River)
Limit A: 5.

Wyman Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
Open entire year for *brook trout.*

Yellowstone River Drainage
Open entire year for *whitefish.*

Yellowstone River

- Below mouth of Clarks Fork
  Open entire year to setline fishing. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.
- Yellowstone National Park Boundary to I-90 bridge at Billings
  Open entire year for commercial *whitefish* fishing.
- Emigrant Bridge to Pine Creek Bridge
  Open entire year. Artificial lures only. Limit A: *brown* and *rainbow,* 4 fish under 13 inches and 1 fish over 22 inches. Catch-and-release only for *cutthroat.*
- Yellowstone National Park boundary to Emigrant Bridge
  Open entire year. Limit A: 5 *rainbow* or *brown trout* with only 1 over 18 inches. Catch-and-release only for *cutthroat.*


Livingston
Pinecreek Bridge
Emigrant Bridge
Gardiner
Yellowstone National Park
Upper Yellowstone River
Special Limit Area
• Artificial Flies and Lures only (Bait fishing allowed for whitefish between Dec. 1 and the third Saturday in May — all trout caught on bait must be released)
• Rainbow and Brown Trout, 5 fish limit, 4 under 13 inches, 1 over 22 inches
• Cutthroat Trout, Catch and release fishing only
• Whitefish, 100
Special Limit Area
• Rainbow and Brown Trout, 5 fish limit (only 1 over 18 inches)
• Cutthroat Trout, Catch and release fishing only
• Whitefish, 100
Remainder of Upper Yellowstone River
• Rainbow, Brown and Cutthroat Trout, 5 fish limit (only 1 over 18 inches)
• Whitefish, 100

Commercial Bait Fish Seining

Nongame bait fish (except *carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt*) may be harvested for commercial purposes in accordance with ARM Section 12.7.201-12.7.206 from the following waters: Marias River and Muddy Creek (near Vaughn). Sculpins may be taken from all waters with a four (4) foot screen or net as provided in the general fishing regulations.

Any individual taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must possess a commercial bait fish seining license.

Live bait fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana for commercial or other purposes.

Not valid on Indian Reservation water; for information contact local tribal officials.

Nets (Use of)

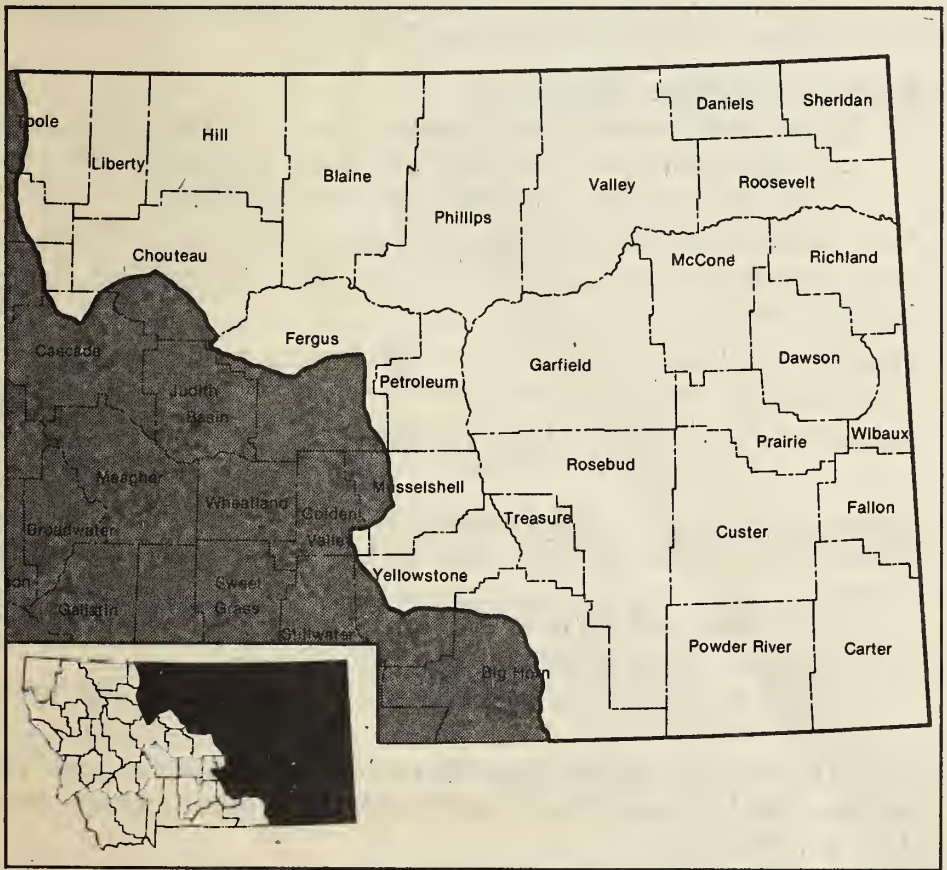
Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.

In waters where use of live fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:

- With seines not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or
- With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.

A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

Eastern Fishing District



EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT INCLUDES ALL WATERS LYING EAST OF THE CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT. FOR THE BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, SEE CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT.

Standard Fishing and Possession Limits

Each fisherman may take all of the following limits. However, a person may possess only the limit allowed for the water on which he is fishing.

LIMIT:

A
SPECIES: Salmon
Grayling
All trout except Lake trout
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 10 in any combination
POSSESSION LIMIT: 10

B
SPECIES: Lake trout
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 5
POSSESSION LIMIT: 5

C
SPECIES: Walleye and Sauger
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 10 in any combination
POSSESSION LIMIT: 10

D
SPECIES: Northern Pike
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 5
POSSESSION LIMIT: 5

E
SPECIES: Bass (largemouth and smallmouth)
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 10
POSSESSION LIMIT: 10

F
SPECIES: Paddlefish
DAILY BAG LIMIT: 1
POSSESSION LIMIT: 2

There is no number limit on catfish, burbot (ling), sturgeon and nongame fish (except portion of Marias River). The maximum weight sturgeon (Genus: **Scaphirhynchus**) which may be taken is 16 pounds.

Standard Fishing Seasons

All waters open entire year. All waters open to fishing are open to bow and arrow hunting, and snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish (except portion of Yellowstone River).

Nongame fish and burbot may be taken with rubber or spring propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged in all waters open to fishing.

Spears or gigs may be used through the ice only for northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot and nongame fish.

All lakes open to fishing open to setline fishing through the ice only.

Streams and rivers in the Missouri River Drainage open to use of live fish for bait (except *carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt*) except:

- Milk River and its tributaries above Fresno Reservoir.
- Missouri River upstream from Morony Dam.
- Streams south of Highway 2 which originate in Bearpaw Mountains.

All streams in Yellowstone Drainage open entire year to setlines and to use of live bait (except *carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt*).

Anglers may use up to 6 unattended setlines with up to 6 hooks in those waters open to setline fishing.

Unattended setlines must be clearly marked with owner's name and address.

Exceptions to: Eastern Fishing District

Bainville Railroad Ponds (Roosevelt County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Baker Lake (Fallon County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Beaver Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bearpaw Mountains)
  Open third Saturday in May through November. Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.

Beaver Creek in Valley and Phillips County
Open entire year to setline fishing.

Big Muddy Creek
Open entire year to setline fishing.

Big Sandy Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bearpaw Mountains)
  Open third Saturday in May through November. Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.

Castle Rock Lake (Rosebud County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Clear Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bearpaw Mountains)
  Open third Saturday in May through November. Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.

Cole Ponds (Phillips County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Cow Creek (Bearpaw Mountains)
Open third Saturday in May through November. Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.

Dredge Cut Trout Pond
Open April 1 through November for up to 2 setlines with no more than 2 hooks; setlines not to be suspended from free floating devices such as jugs. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Eagle Creek (Bearpaw Mountains)
Open third Saturday in May through November. Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.

Engstrom Reservoir (Sheridan County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Ester Reservoir
Open entire year to setline fishing. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Flat Lake (McCone County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Fort Peck Dredge Cut Ponds (See Missouri River)

Fort Peck Reservoir
Open entire year for all species to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring propelled spears.

Fort Peck Reservoir
- Downstream from a line between Haxby Point and Number 6 navigation sign at South Fork Duck Creek including Big Dry Arm.
  Open April 1 through November for up to 2 setlines with no more than 2 hooks; setlines not to be suspended from free floating devices such as jugs. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait. Limit C: 5 fish daily and in possession in any combination.

- Upstream from a line between Haxby Point and Number 6 navigation sign at South Fork Duck Creek excluding Big Dry Arm.
  Open entire year to setline fishing. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Frenchman Creek (excluding Frenchman Reservoir)
Open entire year to setline fishing.

Frenchman Reservoir (Phillips County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Fresno Reservoir
Open entire year to setline fishing.

Giant Springs (Great Falls) that portion enclosed by concrete walks and masonry work.
Closed entire year.

Killenbeck Reservoir (Daniels County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Kuester Reservoir (Richland County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Lake Elwell (See Tiber Reservoir)

Lame Steer Reservoir (Wibaux County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Lee (Sam) Reservoir (Dawson County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Lindsay Reservoir (Dawson County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Little Box Elder Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bearpaw Mountains)
  Open third Saturday in May through November. Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.

Little Warm Reservoir (Phillips County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Lone Tree Creek (Valley County)
Open entire year to setlines.

Lone Tree Creek impoundments (Valley County)
Open entire year to setlines. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Marias River
- Open entire year to setline fishing.
- From Tiber Dam to its confluence with the Missouri River
  Shovelnose sturgeon limit shall be 5 fish.

McChesney Reservoir (Phillips County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge
- Medicine Lake
  Open November 15 through September 15.
- Gaffney Lake
  Open September 15 through March 31.
- Lake 12
  Open November 15 through March 31.

All three lakes open to setline fishing. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Milk River
- And its tributaries above Fresno Dam.
  Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.
- Upstream from Fresno Reservoir
  Open entire year to setline fishing.
- (And its impoundements) downstream from Fresno Dam
  Open entire year to setline fishing. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

- Downstream from Highway 2 bridge below Dodson Dam
  Hoop nets without wings or leads may be used for nongame fish, *catfish, burbot* and *sturgeon* except downstream from Vandalia Dam about 1/4 mile; each net must be marked with owner's name and address; *sturgeon* must be under 16 pounds.

Missouri River

- Upstream from Morony Dam
  Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.
- Downstream from Morony Dam (excluding river and dredge cuts between Fort Peck Dam and mouth of Milk River)
  Open entire year to setline fishing.
- Downstream from mouth of Milk River
  Hoop nets without wings or leads may be used for nongame fish, *catfish, burbot* and *sturgeon*; each net must be marked with owner's name and address; *sturgeon* must be under 16 pounds.
- From Fort Peck Dam to mouth of Milk River (including Dredge Cut Ponds)
  Open April 1 through November for up to 2 setlines with no more than 2 hooks; setlines may not be suspended from free floating devices such as jugs. Limit A: *Rainbow trout*, 2 fish daily and in possession. *Salmon, whitefish* and all *trout* except *rainbow* and *lake trout*, 10 fish in any combination.
- Immediately downstream from Morony Dam as posted
  Closed entire year.
- Downstream from outlet tunnels of Fort Peck Dam as posted
  Closed entire year.

Musselshell River

Open entire year to setline fishing.

Nelson Reservoir

Open entire year to setline fishing; setlines not to be suspended from free floating devices such as jugs. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait. Open entire year for all species to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring-propelled spears. Limit D: there is no number limit.

Peoples Creek

- South of Highway 2 (Bearpaw Mountains)
  Open third Saturday in May through November. Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.

Petrolia Reservoir

Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Poplar River

Open entire year to setline fishing.

Raymond Reservoir (Sheridan County)

Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Redwater River

Open entire year to setline fishing.

Reser Reservoir (Blaine County)

Limit E: 2 fish in any combination.

Rolph Dam (Carter County)

Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Rush Hall Pond (Fallon County)

Open February through October.

Silvertip Reservoir (Prairie County)

Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Smith Cattle Co. Reservoir (near Cohagen)

Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Snake Creek (Bearpaw Mountains)
Open third Saturday in May through November. Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.

South Sandstone Reservoir (Fallon County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Spotted Eagle Pond (Custer County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Sucker Creek (Bearpaw Mountains)
Open third Saturday in May through November. Closed to use of live fish for bait except *sculpins*.

Teton River
Open entire year to setline fishing.

Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell)
Open entire year to setline fishing. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Tongue River Reservoir
Open entire year for all species to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring propelled spears. Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Whiteside Reservoir (Garfield County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Whitetail Reservoir (Daniels County)
Live fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) allowed for bait.

Wind Creek (Blaine County) from Clear Creek road crossing to its source, excluding Ross Reservoir
Closed entire year.

Yellowstone River

- Downstream from mouth of Bighorn River
  Open May 16 through February of following year to use of hoop nets without wings or leads for nongame fish, *catfish, burbot* and *sturgeon* except about 200 yards below all irrigation diversion dams; each net must be marked with owner's name and address. No limits, except *sturgeon* must be under 16 pounds.
- Downstream from mouth of Cottonwood Creek (approximately 4 miles downstream of Intake Diversion Dam)
  Open May 1 through July 10 to snagging of *paddlefish*. Snagging of nongame fish prohibited. Limit F: *paddlefish*, 2 fish per year, any fish caught must be tagged immediately and counted in this limit.
- From mouth of Bighorn River to mouth of Cottonwood Creek (approximately 4 miles downstream of Intake Diversion Dam)
  Open May 15 through July 10 to snagging of *paddlefish*. Snagging of nongame fish prohitibed. Limit F: 2 fish per year, any fish caught must be tagged immediately and counted in this limit.
- From Intake diversion to about 1/4 mile downstream as posted
  Closed May 15 through July 10 to fishing or snagging from boats.

Commercial Bait Fish Seining

Nongame bait fish (except *carp, goldfish and rainbow smelt*) may be harvested for commercial purposes in accordance with ARM Section 12.7.201-12.7.206 from the following waters. Any individual taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must possess a commercial bait fish seining license.

Streams and reservoirs listed as open to the use of all nongame fish (except *carp, goldfish* and *rainbow smelt*) for bait **except:**

- Big Dry and Little Dry Creek north of Highway 200 in Garfield County.
- Hanging Woman Creek downstream from the Birney Road to its confluence with the Tongue River.
- Otter Creek downstream from U.S. Highway 212 to its confluence with the Tongue River.
- Lone Tree Creek and Fox Creek, tributaries to the Yellowstone River in Richland County.
- Petrolia Reservoir.

Certain other waters may be opened upon request. Apply to regional Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

Live bait fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana for commercial or other purposes.

Not valid on Indian Reservation water; for information contact local tribal officials.

Nets (Use of)

Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.

A screen or net not to exceed four (4) feet in length may be used to take sculpins (Cottus).

Hoop Nets - Hoop nets without wings or leads may be used to take nongame fish, *catfish, burbot* (ling), and *sturgeon* in Yellowstone River downstream from mouth of Bighorn River, except: Closed March 1 through May 15; and for approximately two hundred (200) yards below all irrigation diversion dams. Milk River downstream from Highway 2 bridge below Dodson Dam except from Vandalia Dam to a point 1/4 mile downstream, and in Missouri River below mouth of Milk River. Each net must be clearly marked with owner's name and address.

Minnow Seines and Traps - In all waters where use of live fish other than sculpins (Cottus) is allowed for bait, nongame species may be taken:

- With a seine not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width; or
- With minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.

Montana Stream Access Law

Montana's 1985 Legislature passed a law affecting the recreational use of Montana's rivers and streams. The law states that rivers and streams capable of recreational use may be so used by the public up to the ordinary high water marks. The law does not address recreational use of lakes. Although Montana law now gives sportsmen the right to pursue water based recreational activities within the high-water marks of rivers and streams, it does not give recreationists the right to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams.

The success or failure of the new law hinges on the behavior of landowners and recreationists. We emphasize the need for cooperation and mutual respect. If you are a recreationist, we encourage you to seek landowner permission before pursuing any activities on private lands. Also, please leave all fences intact, camp only in areas appropriate for such an activity, pack out your litter, if you must build a campfire, choose a safe location and tend to the fire at all times. If a dog accompanies you, keep it under your control. Restrict your activities to those that are water-related and above all, keep the rights of the landowner in mind.

Montana Trespass Law

Montana's trespass law states that a member of the public has the privilege to enter or remain on private land by the explicit permission of the landowner or his agent, or by the failure of the landowner to post notice denying entry onto the land. The law states that notice denying entry must consist of written notice on a post, structure or natural object or of notice by painting a post, structure or natural object with at least 50 square inches of flourescent orange paint. In the case of a metal fence post, the entire post must be painted. This notice must be placed at each outer gate and all normal points of access to the property, as well as on both sides of a stream where it crosses an outer property boundary line. In cases where land ownership is on just one side of a stream, only that side needs to be posted.

It is the responsibility of the recreationist to determine whether private lands are posted. If lands are posted, it is the recreationist's responsibility to obtain permission from landowners before recreating on these lands.

If you see poaching taking place or suspect that any form of fish or wildlife has been taken illegally, call1-800-TIP-MONT (847-6668)

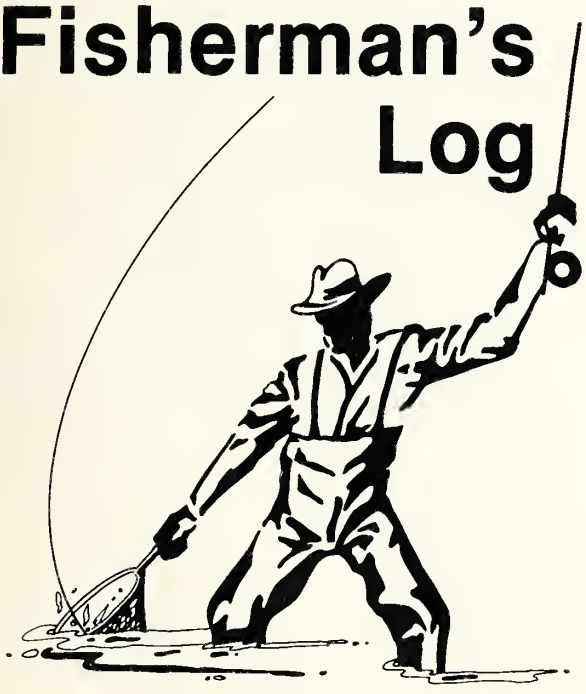
Wild Trout

Montana prides itself on an abundance of wild trout fisheries. Nearly all of the trout populations in Montana's streams and rivers sustain themselves naturally. These populations evolved in, or have adapted to life in Montana's streams and provide prized sport fisheries. Wild trout tend to live longer, grow larger and provide more sport in streams than hatchery trout that are planted for immediate harvest. Sustaining our wild trout fisheries requires reservation and protection of instream flows, natural streambed and banks, good water quality and healthy streamside vegetation.

Special Regulations

Special regulations have been placed on sections of several trout streams to maintain a healthy population of larger trout. These regulations were implemented following a public review process. The fish population is monitored by electrofishing in these sections every year to determine if the regulations are working. Less restrictive regulations are placed on other sections of these streams to allow other fishermen the opportunity to catch and keep more, but often smaller fish. These regulations help provide a diversity of quality experiences year after year.

Fisherman's Log



If you fish regularly in Montana help gather fishing information. Write for the Fisherman's Log:

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 E. 6th Avenue
Helena, MT 59620

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